

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 11, 13, 16 and 17 are amended. Support for the amended claims can be found, at least, pages 2 and 3 of the specification. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Getaneh and Examiner Zimmerman in the August 7, 2008 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0170973 (Teraura). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 11, 13, 16 and 17 have been amended to substantively recite a merging unit for merging a plurality of images into a single combined image, in accordance with a suggestion made by the Examiners at the August 7 interview. Applicants respectfully assert that Teraura does not disclose a merging unit.

As discussed during the August 7 interview, the instant specification discusses the concept of N-up printing. However, Teraura does not disclose N-up printing, and does not specifically disclose a merging unit. As such, Teraura fails to disclose each and every feature of independent claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 11, 13, 16 and 17.

Claims 2, 4-6, 8, 10, 12 and 14, directly or indirectly, depend from claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 11, and 13. Thus, claims 2, 4-6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 are patentable over Teraura for their dependency on allowable base claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

For the foregoing reasons, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1-17 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Request for Continued Examination
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: August 18, 2008

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